

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OIC-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: AD HOC MEETING ON JAPANESE PROPOSAL

1. SUMMARY: ALL COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT JUNE 19-20 AD HOC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED LONGER TERM RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE "FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES IN HARMONY WITH THAT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" (JAPAN PROPOSAL) WELCOMED THE JAPANESE INITIATIVE AND ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A LONGER-RANGE RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING CAPABILITY AT THE OECD. ON ORGANIZATION, CONSENSUS WAS A) THAT PROJECT SHOULD BE PART II ACTIVITY LIMITED AT LEAST INITIALLY TO THREE YEARS, B) THAT RESEARCH SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY TEAM WITH SUFFICIENT AUTONOMY TO PERMIT WIDE-RANGING AND IMAGINATIVE WORK BUT WITH CLOSE ENOUGH LINKS TO GOVERNMENT AND REST OF OECD TO ENSURE THAT WORK IS RELEVANT TO NATIONAL POLICY-MAKERS, AND C) THAT PRIORITIES AND DIRECTION OF RESEARCH TEAM'S WORK SHOULD BE GUIDED BY STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED AT LEAST IN PART OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

2. ON SUBSTANCE, CONSENSUS WAS THAT RESEARCH SHOULD GENERALLY COVER A 25-YEAR TIME FRAME WITH EMPHASIS ON AREAS WHERE RELATIVELY EARLY DECISIONS WILL AFFECT EVENTS IN THE LONGER-TERM. MAIN FOCUS SHOULD BE ON TRENDS BEARING ON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OECD COUNTRIES AND LDCS. MOST GOVERNMENTS INDICATED THAT THEY COULD MAKE NO FIRM COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL SUBJECT AREAS ARE FURTHER NARROWED AND FOCUSED AND CONCEPTUAL ORIENTATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS ARE FURTHER CLARIFIED. FOR THESE PURPOSES, IT WAS AGREED THAT ANOTHER AD HOC MEETING WOULD BE HELD AROUND THE END OF SEPTEMBER. IN THE MEAN-TIME SECRETARIAT WILL SEEK TO PREPARE A MORE SHARPLY FOCUSED PROPOSAL BASED ON CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AND THE ADVICE, AS APPROPRIATE, OF EXPERTS. FOR LATTER PURPOSE, SECRETARIAT NOW PLANS TO HOLD INFORMAL EXPERTS' MEETING, AT INVITATION OF SECGEN, LATE IN JULY LIMITED TO THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING. SPECIFIC PROJECT PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE PUT BEFORE COUNCIL UNTIL AFTER LATE SEPTEMBER MEETING. ACTION REQUESTED: A) DEPARTMENT'S CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ON SUBSTANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF PROJECT, AND B) GUIDANCE ON AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE EXPERT FOR JULY MEETING. (SECRETARIAT PRESENTLY ENVISAGES INVITING THOSE REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS WHO ATTENDED JUNE 19-20 MEETING

AND EXHIBITED STRONG INTEREST IN PROJECT). END SUMMARY.

3. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS EXCEPT GREECE, ICELAND, PORTUGAL AND AUSTRIA. JAPANESE REP, ECONOMIST SABURO OKITA, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN AT OUTSET. WHILE MANY SMALLER COUNTRIES AND GERMANY WERE REPRESENTED ONLY BY PERMANENT DELEGATIONS, UK, CANADA, FRANCE, SWEDEN NETHERLANDS AND IRELAND SENT SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM NATIONAL POLICY PLANNING ESTABLISHMENTS. FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY PHILIP TREZISE WAS US REP.

4. WHILE ONLY JAPANESE AND NETHERLANDS DELS WERE IN POSITION TO INDICATE A DEFINITE COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT, ALL DELEGATIONS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CONCEPT OF INSTITUTING IN THE OECD A LONGER-RANGE RESEARCH CAPABILITY CLOSELY LINKED AND INTERACTING WITH NATIONAL POLICY-MAKERS. ALL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT A RELATIVELY AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH CENTER SEPARATE FROM EXISTING COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORATE STRUCTURE WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THIS PURPOSE, WITH EXCEPTION OF BELGIAN AND SWISS DELS WHO THOUGHT THAT

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THIS GOAL SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH GREATER ATTENTION TO LONGER-RANGE ISSUES BY EXISTING OECD BODIES. OF THE MAJOR COUNTRIES, GERMANS WERE LEAST ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT SECRETARIAT FEELS CONFIDENT THAT GERMANY WILL EVENTUALLY PARTICIPATE IF OTHER LEADING GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO TAKE PART.

5. SUBSTANTIVE FOCUS - ALL DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT SECRETARIAT PAPER (CES/75.67) WAS TOO VAGUE TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR PROJECT AND THAT SUBJECT AREAS WOULD HAVE TO BE NARROWED AND FOCUSED. THERE WERE TWO GENERAL APPROACHES TO THIS PROBLEM: SWEDES, JAPANESE AND SECRETARIAT THOUGHT IT DIFFICULT TO DEFINE MORE THAN BROAD OUTLINES OF SUBJECT AREAS UNTIL RESEARCH TEAM IS SELECTED AND APPEARED TO ADVOCATE A GENERAL APPROACH OF SELECTING A GROUP OF TALENTED RESEARCHERS AND ALLOWING THEM THROUGH THEIR INTERACTION TO COME UP WITH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS. MAJORITY VIEW WAS THAT DIRECTION OF PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE DEFINED WITH CONSIDERABLE PRECISION BEFORE GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE WILLING TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY.

6. CONSENSUS WAS THAT PROJECT SHOULD FOCUS MAINLY ON RELATIONS BETWEEN OECD COUNTRIES AND LDCS, DEALING WITH QUESTIONS INTERNAL TO OECD AREA PRIMARILY AS THEY AFFECT BROADER GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS. WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK, OPINIONS VARIED BETWEEN DUTCH VIEW THAT PROJECT SHOULD FOCUS SOLELY ON HARD ECONOMIC QUESTIONS (SUCH AS AVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIALS, FOOD AND ENERGY, EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND PATTERNS OF PRODUCTION AND THEIR IMPACT ON WORLD TRADE) AND SWEDISH AND FRENCH EMPHASIS ON MORE SOCIAL TRENDS AND THEIR IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. OKITA OUTLINED HIS OWN VIEW OF THREE MAJOR THEMES ON WHICH RESEARCH SHOULD FOCUS: A) TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRY, B) TRENDS IN AVAILABILITY AND USE OF RAW MATERIALS
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AND ENERGY AND EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS, AND C) A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND AN ATTEMPT BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO DEFINE WHAT AN EQUITABLE ORDER SHOULD BE. GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT PROJECT SHOULD COVER MAJOR SPECIFIC

ASPECTS OF LONGER-TERM NATURAL RESOURCE AND ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT TO AN APPROPRIATE EXTENT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS.

7. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL THAT BASIC CONCEPTUAL ORIENTATION OF PROJECT SHOULD BE "TO OUTLINE ALTERNATIVE PATTERNS OF WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND TO SUGGEST THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC POLICY CHOICES OPEN TO ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES."

8. ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS - THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR US REP'S STATEMENT THAT PROJECT SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT AUTONOMY AND FLEXIBILITY TO PERMIT A WIDE-RANGING, ORIGINAL LOOK AT LONGER-RUN TRENDS AND THEIR POLICY IMPLICATIONS YET BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO GOVERNMENTS AND REST OF OECD STRUCTURE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REMOTE UNDERTAKING UNRELATED TO ON-GOING WORK AND INTERESTS OF POLICY-MAKERS. THE CONCEPT OF HOLDING PERIODIC MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICY-MAKERS TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE RESEARCH TEAM WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL DELEGATIONS. MAJORITY VIEW WAS THAT PROJECT SHOULD RECEIVE GENERAL GUIDANCE FROM STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF GOVERNMENT

REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD BOTH ENSURE THAT WORK REMAINED
RELEVANT TO NATIONAL CONCERNS AND OPERATE AS A CHANNEL
FOR CONVEYING RESULTS OF RESEARCH TO CAPITALS. GERMANS
AND ITALIANS FELT THAT STEERING COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT STIFLE CREATIVITY OF RESEARCH WORK,
GERMANS ADVOCATING STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF
OUTSIDE EXPERTS AND LEADERS OF EXISTING OECD DIRECTOR-
ATES AND ADDING SOMEWHAT INCONSISTANT TWIST THAT RESULTS OF
RESEARCH SHOULD BE CHanneLED TO CAPITALS THROUGH
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OECD COUNCIL. JAPANESE AND SOME OTHER DELS THOUGHT STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD INCLUDE IN ADDITION TO GOVERNMENTAL REPS DIRECTORS OF RELEVANT OECD ACTIVITIES AND PERHAPS SOME EXPERTS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR.

9. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT RECRUITMENT OF 15-25 HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS TO MAN RESEARCH TEAM ON FULL-TIME BASIS WAS EITHER DESIRABLE OR FINANCIALLY POSSIBLE. JAPANESE ADVOCATED STAFF OF 5-7 HOTABLE MEMBERS, EACH OF WHOM WOULD BE ASSISTED BY 3-5 YOUNGER ASSISTANTS WHO WOULD REMAIN ON FULL-TIME STATUS THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT AND MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH OECD SECRETARIAT AND RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED ELSEWHERE. IT WAS AGREED THAT WHILE RESEARCH TEAM WOULD DO SOME ORIGINAL WORK, IT SHOULD DRAW HEAVILY ON WORK DONE ELSEWHERE IN DRAWING UP POLICY OPTIONS AND BE IN POSITION TO CONTRACT OUT WORK WHERE APPROPRIATE.

9. CONCLUSIONS - FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BY NUMEROUS DELEGATIONS THAT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO RECOMMEND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT A MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF SUBSTANTIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS, IT WAS AGREED THAT ANOTHER AD HOC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN LATE SEPTEMBER AT WHICH TIME SECRETARIAT WOULD PRESENT A MORE SHARPLY FOCUSED PROJECT PROPOSAL. IN ORDER TO FORMULATE THIS PROPOSAL, GROUP AGREED THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD INVITE

CONCRETE, WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INTERESTED
GOVERNMENTS, CONSULT CLOSELY WITH PERMANENT DELEGATIONS,
AND DRAW UPON ADVICE OF EXPERTS AS APPROPRIATE. PRO-
POSAL WILL NOT BE PUT BEFORE COUNCIL UNTIL AFTER SEPT. MEETING.
SECRETARIAT HAS INDICATED PLANS TO HOLD MEETING OF
EXPERTS -- HOPEFULLY THOSE REPRESENTATIVES FROM
CAPITALS TO AD HOC MEETING WHO EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST
IN PROJECT -- IN LATE JULY TO ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF
PROPOSAL TO SEPTEMBER MEETING. PRECISE TIMING DEPENDS
PRIMARILY ON AVAILABILITY OF OKITA AND OTHER EXPERTS
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TO BE INVITED.

10. MISSION COMMENT: WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT
DEPARTMENT CONVEY ITS CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE
SUBSTANTIVE FOCUS AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE PROJECT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SINCE THEY WILL PLAY A
KEY ROLE IN SHAPING SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL TO SEPTEMBER
AD HOC MEETING. FOR THE SAME REASON, WE URGE US REPRE-
SENTATION AT JULY EXPERTS' MEETING AND WOULD APPRECIATE
EARLY GUIDANCE ON AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE EXPERT.
MISSION HAS BEEN STRUCK BY THREE SUBJECT THEMES OUTLINED
BY OKITA AND COMMENDS THEM TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION AS
SUGGESTING AREAS OF RESEARCH WHICH COULD FORM THE BASIS
FOR A USEFUL ANALYSIS OF THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF
SIGNIFICANT FUTURE TRENDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, PROPOSALS (BID), COMMITTEES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP16572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750222-0174
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750613/aaaaalsn.tel
Line Count: 417
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AD HOC MEETING ON JAPANESE PROPOSAL
TAGS: EGEN, TECH, JA, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006